Times-Virginian Editorial Page

CORRECT THIS AT ONCE

State Senator Harry C. Stuart, of Russell County, claims that 120 employees of the Virginia State Corporation Commission hold free bus passes; 19 hold free train passes. He says that members of the commission benefit by free telephone service.

It is contended that this is perfectly legal under a section of Virginia law.

Legal or not legal, it is a shocking revelation. It is a vicious practice, and we call upon Governor Battle to act promptly to stop the hand-out. Virginians cry in shame if some one in Washington accepts a DEEP FREEZE or a MINK COAT. Let us get our own house in order.

If this practice is technically legal under a section of state law, then minimum fault can be found with the employees who, apparently are merely following an established practice. The practice should be ordered stopped by the Governor and the General Assembly.

GOOD NEWS IN EUROPE

Nothing in the news thus far in 1952 can exceed in importance the word from Lisbon that leading nations have agreed to set up a 50-division European Army, pooling the strength of Western Europe to seek and secure stability.

Imagine French and German troops in the same army, under a single command and a common uniform! A beating on the future of that harassed continent is staggering to the mind. Can it be that common sense has finally conquered the rivalries of the centuries, and that at long last nations are forming to team-up for peace and security! If so, it is a major victory for American foreign policy, and the best news of our time.

This European Army will be even stronger than its 50 divisions. The considerable forces of Turkey will be in reserve, and American and British support mean that it will be a powerful deterrent on potential aggressors.

Coupled with the army, must be a practical customs union, so that West Europe can pool its economic as well as its military strength.

BRAILLE CENTENNIAL

(The New York Times)

The hundredth anniversary of the death of Louis Braille will be observed throughout 1952 in France, his native land. The world owes much to M. Braille for the invention of the system of reading and printing for the blind by the use of raised dots. The blind are ever in his debt, for through his efforts they were released from their narrow world. Because of his system they can reach out as far as the raised dots in the great books of the world will take them. Those courageous blind students who are to be found on the campuses of the world's universities would probably not be there if the Braille system had not made it possible for them to read and "punch" out their notes.

Unfortunately, only 20 per cent of the 250,000 blind persons in the United States, generally considered to be one of the most advanced nations in the world in the help that it gives to the handicapped, knows Braille. The executive director of the American Foundation for the Blind declared recently that "it is more than ever important to foster the teaching of this system in every possible manner." It would be a fitting commemoration of the hundredth anniversary of the death of Louis Braille if in 1952 the number of blind persons who can read and write Braille were doubled. Mr. Braille probably would indicate his willingness to forego any honors to be bestowed upon his memory if increasing numbers of blind persons could learn his system and receive "sight" of the written word.

SALUTE TO DE PERE

Ever hear of De Pere, Wisconsin? This city of 8,200 plans to be in the limelight this political year of 1952, through its campaign to get out a perfect 100 per cent vote next November.

"We're shooting at the moon," declare the backers of this splendid drive. And they add, "People have complained about the government. We figured this was the way the little guy could do something about it."

Every person over 21 within the city limits will be urged to register and vote. De Pere already has an excellent voting record. 82 per cent of those registered in 1948 actually voted. That is a good turnout—but not good enough for De Pere. They want it to be perfect. A carefully planned campaign is on, and here's wishing them success.

SCHOOL INEQUALITY

A news story published elsewhere in today's issue reports of what the localities put up in tax money for public education. The figures are of great interest.

Here are the extremes:

From local tax funds, the city of Harrisonburg puts up $224.38 per child, whereas Lee County puts up $22.55.

During 1950-51, the state put up 14 per cent of all school funds, exclusive of capital outlay and debt service. But the state put up only 23 per cent of the total spent in Arlington, compared to 74 per cent in Lee.

These inequalities are unfair.

There are unfair to the children —for every Virginia pupil should have educational opportunity of at least near equality. And it is unfair to the taxpayers, when there are so many "soft spots" in the tax structure. No only does the city taxpayer pay to educate his children, but he must pay enough extra in state taxes so money can be sent to partially educate children in the counties where little effort is made.

We hesitate to recommend that a study commission might lead to tax equality—because it would all depend upon who made the study. Yet, an impartial study by out-of-state experts would seem desirable.

Our personal belief is that sooner or later, we shall have to do for the schools what we did for the roads: put the whole set-up on a state-wide basis, financed by a sales tax. Who can say it did not work for roads?

HOMEMAKERS' ITEMS

When curtain rods are rough and snag the beading of your curtains, dip one end of the rod in melted parraffin and let it harden. Then slip that end of the rod through the curtains when you are ready to hang them. Or, you can wrap one end of the rod with scotch tape so the jagged edge of the end of the rod won't tear the curtain.

To change a recipe from soda and sour milk to baking powder and sweet milk, keep this rule in mind: One-half teaspoon of soda equals two teaspoons of baking powder. Therefore, to substitute sweet milk for sour, use four times as much baking powder as soda specified, and replace sour milk with the same amount of sweet milk.

When you pack your bag for a trip tuck in a suede brush if your shoes are suede—scotch tape for a quick mend in a ripped hem — a few coat hangers—a purse size whisk-broom, a miniature mending kit, and a traveling iron. That old trick of steaming wrinkles out over the bathtub is good to remember, too.

These suggestions will help give your hands that well-groomed look: Wash often with warm water and soap, rinse thoroughly and dry. Use lemon for bleaching hands, pumice for stain removal, lotion or cream for softening and whitening. Rubber or canvas gloves will protect your hands when you have dirty work to do.

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Is That The Way Out?

Reprinted from The Charleston, W. Va., Gazette

Egg Selling Study Completed

While egg production represents an important source of income to southern agriculture, it appears to be a side-line enterprise with most rural families.

This fact was brought out in a recently completed survey on methods followed in marketing eggs in nine southern states.

The study further showed that many producers do not place major emphasis on achieving the highest potential benefits of which the enterprise is capable.

First buyers, also, usually give little special attention to handling the eggs, since eggs are only a minor item in their businesses.

One of the most acute problems facing the industry evolves from the highly seasonal fluctuation in egg production, according to the study. More than twice as many eggs are sold during March, April, and May as during September, October, and November. The peak spring production and sales tax the facilities of many local dealers and readily available markets to handle increased supplies at this time of year are often hard to find.

The resulting market congestion, together with the increased difficulty of maintaining egg quality during warm weather, result in low prices to producers.

J. T. Buck, of the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station's agricultural economics staff, who participated in the study, said a total of 3,020 open country families who sold eggs in 1948 were interviewed. Additional information was obtained from 363 first buyers who purchased eggs from the producers. These buyers included retail stores, rolling stores, local produce dealers, hucksters, cooperatives, and hatcheries.

Other states involved in the study were Alabama, Arkansas Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas. The Experiments Stations of these states and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, USDA, cooperated.

Competition For Apples

Increased competition for the consumer's dollar from other fruits, and from other producing areas, is foreseen for Virginia apple growers this year.

A. H. Teske, horticulturist at VPI, says this means that it's going to take "some real hard thinking in planning the production program" if Virginia applemen expect to come out on top this year.

Recalling 1951 as a tough year for apple growers, Teske points out that citrus fruits will be in good supply this year, and will give apples a "run for the consumer's dollar." Further, if there is a good growing season and barring serious damages from spring frosts, peach production will be up.

If the Northwest comes back with a big crop in 1952, that'll mean even more competition.

Teske's advice to fruit growers is to keep an eagle eye on costs. Orchard labor will be in shorter supply, and wages certainly will not be lower. There will not be much change in the price of spray chemicals and other materials.

Pruning, cultivation, and spraying will all have an important place in the 1952 apple program.

Caverns Open New Area

New Market, Feb. 27.- Shenandoah Caverns, near this historic village in the heart of the beautiful Valley of the Shenandoah, is celebrating its thirtieth anniversary this year by opening to the public new underground wonderlands discovered and developed during the last few months by the new owner, H. B. Long, of Front Royal. The new development will not be completed until 1953 or 1954, but so much has been added that the management has announced a unique series of tours to be offered for the first time in recent cavern history in Virginia. In the future, visitors may decide whether they want an hour of exploring underground, two hours, or a new, longer tour being offered for three hours duration.

Explorations were and continue to be conducted by Carles D. Wine, for eight years attached to the staff of Skyline Caverns, at Front Royal. Under his direction an entirely new indirect lighting system has just been developed, capable of furnishing complete service for a town of 8,000.

From Our Early Files

Items from our files:

ONE YEAR AGO

Both boys and girls basketball teams of Appomattox High School participate in post-season tournaments.

Hugh Tanner elected president of Young Farmers' Club.

Plans made to reopen the Farm Machinery Repair Class here.

R. B. Hodgins honored upon his 25th anniversary as county agent.

A. L. Harwood writes interesting account of a trip to California.

John W. Rush, 59, dies after an extended illness.

The Rev. D. G. Trent, 72, retired Methodist minister, dies.

Hector P. Cawthorne, 71, dies after extended illness.

H. B. Simpson, 90, dies in Pamplin.

THREE YEARS

Final report on the Dimes drive shows $1,2[illegible]

Capt. O. E. Snead, [illegible] Police, dies after [illegible] hours.

Mrs. R. G. Holt is [illegible] Matron of Eastern Star.

FIVE YEARS

No official date set [illegible] ing of the dark-fired [illegible] kets.

Mrs. Ola T. Patteson [illegible] brief illness.

Funeral services held [illegible] Floyd Inge.

Liberty Chapel

Liberty Chapel, Feb. 26.- Maple Grove Baptist Church will have a revival festival at the church Sunday, March 2, from 8 to 10 P. M. All are extend an invitation to all churches to attend and help in this meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. Percy Garrett and Mr. and Mrs. David Garrett visited Saturday night of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Woodson, of Spout Spring.

Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Reynolds and family, Tuesday night of Mr. [illegible]

Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Davidson and children, of Columbus, Ohio, spent several days with their parents, Mrs. J. L. Davidson and Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Reynolds.

Mr. and Mrs. Percy Garrett and Mr. and Mrs. David Garrett visited Mr. and Mrs. Walter Phelps Wednesday night.

The Home Demonstration Club meeting was held Thursday in the home of Mrs. Preston Coleman. The demonstration on glass etching and stain and spot removal was given by Mrs. Paul Thornhill and Mrs. Percy Garrett. Eric Lund, of Lynchburg was a special guest at this meeting.

Mrs. Marvin Reynolds, Mrs. Florence Phelps, Miss Estelle Phelps, Miss Avis Holt and Bobby Phelps spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Talmadge Phelps, of North Carolina.

Large number attended Jackson-Jefferson day banquet in Richmond Saturday night.

Congressman Hardy claims waste at African bases.

Allies agree to include Germans in West European Army.

West Virginia tops teams in the Southern Conference in basketball.

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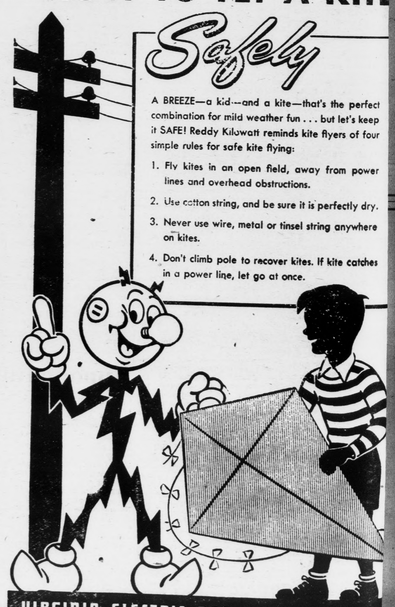

A BREEZE—a kid—and a kite—that's the perfect combination for mild weather fun . . . but let's keep it SAFE! Reddy Kilowatt reminds kite flyers of four simple rules for safe kite flying:

1. Fly kites in an open field, away from power lines and overhead obstructions.
2. Use cotton string, and be sure it is perfectly dry.
3. Never use wire, metal or tinsel string anywhere on kites.
4. Don't climb pole to recover kites. If kite catches in a power line, let go at once.

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

Garden Week Due In April

Richmond, Feb. 27.- Among the lovely places to be seen in Albemarle County during Historic Garden Week, April 26- May 3, are "Blenheim," "Edgemont," "Redlands," and "Estouteville."

The house at "Edgemont," built in 1796, is of pure Palladian architecture and was designed by Thomas Jefferson. Built on the side of a hill, the house has one story in front and two in the rear or garden side. The garden is terraced on seven levels and surrounded by stone walls. Live oaks grow at each end of a bowling green and crepe myrtle blooms against hemlock hedges. Underground passages lead from the house to dependences now used as guest houses.

At "Blenheim" the present house incorporates an old loom house and follows the English Gothic cottage architecture admired in rural England. It was here that Thomas Jefferson and his bride, enroute to Monticello through the worst blizzard recalled in Albemarle County, made their way to the house, got warm and then, through three feet of snow, rode to "Monticello" on two of Colonel Carter's saddle horses.

The building of "Redlands" was begun several years prior to 1798 but the house, an excellent example of Virginian – Georgian architecture, was not ready for full occupancy until about 1808.

The garden is simple and unpretentious. One enters it between four large old English box. The original plan has been retained by the succeeding owners during the past century and a half. The first upper squares are planted with blossoming flowers, forming the insignia of the Order of Masons by outlining a Maltese Cross, indicating that Robert Carter, the builder, was a Mason.

Built on a hilltop with a sweeping view of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the distance, "Estouteville" is probably the finest house of the period in Albemarle County. The present residence, begun in 1827, was completed in 1830. The house is of red brick, two stories high, with a full basement and hip roof. A single story wing on each side of the main edifice gives the building a frontage of more than 136 feet. Identical porticoes with stone steps and Dorie columns nine feet in circumference extend to the top of the second story, protecting the front and rear approaches to a large beautifully proportioned entrance hall extending through the center of the main house. Here may be seen many unusual Spanish art treasures.

Appomattox Dairies Profitable

(Continued from Page One)

By R. B. Hudgins

food they produce for use, but they also excel in the economy with which they produce this unrivaled food.

The returns from dairying are quick and certain. On the whole, they fluctuate less than do returns from other farm products. There is little speculation in dairy farming because there are many ways of diversifying and making adjustments in dairying, and because the product is always marketable.

Maintaining soil fertility is the great problem on every farm. Through soil erosion and continuous cropping of the land, great quantities of nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash, the essential elements of soil fertility, are removed from the soil. Less fertility is removed in the form of milk than by most crops. Where dairying forms the major farm enterprise, there we usually find soil fertility at its height, for proper dairying builds up soil fertility. By selling milk from the farm a minimum of soil fertility is lost. Feeding the farm-grown grain and roughage to dairy cattle on the farm is important, particularly when the farm - grown grains are supplemented with cottonseed or peanut meal. If the manure from the herd is properly conserved, dairying is a type of farming that will build up soil fertility.

If a farmer hopes to prosper, his time and labor should be distributed profitably throughout the year. Dairying is one farm enterprise that will provide continuous and profitable employment.

Most Appomattox County farmers and dairymen have the facilities of the artificial breeding of cattle available to them. The local breeding association serving Campbell and part of Appomattox and Amherst Coulties provides the services of the most outstanding dairy sires in Virginia to Appomattox County cattle owners. The dairy bulls in the state stud are the very best animals obtainable and the services of such high-priced, outstanding individuals can be obtained only through such a breeding organization.

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